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# MINUTES

OF THE

# THIRD CONVENTION

3rd.

OF THE

# OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD

OF THE

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,

OF THE

## STATE OF INDIANA,

HELD IN CAMDEN, CARROLL COUNTY, INDIANA,

OCTOBER 4th---8th, 1850.

"In fundamentals, unity—in non-essentials, liberty—in all things, charity."

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# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,

## OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

2011337

## FIRST SITTING.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th, TEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

Pursuant to its last adjournment, the Olive Branch Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the State of Indiana, assembled in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camden, Indiana, and was opened, as usual, with the singing of a hymn by the brethren, and prayer by the President.

The roll was then called, when the following brethren answered to their names :

| *Pastors.* | *Post Office Address.* |
|---|---|
| Rev. A. H. Myers, | Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. |
| Rev. S. McReynolds, | Camder, Carroll County, Indiana. |
| Rev. S. Sayford,* (*absent.*) | Middletown, Henry County, Indiana. |
| Rev. H. Wells, | Augusta, Marion County, Indiana. |
| Rev. F. Templin, | Columbia, Whitley County, Indiana. |
| Rev. O. Brown, | Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana. |
| Rev. G. Wolf, | Sullivan, Sullivan County, Indiana. |
| Rev. J. Geiger, | East Germantown, Wayne County, Indiana. |
| Rev. G. A. Exline,* (*absent.*) | Benton, Elkhart County, Indiana. |
| Rev. A. Shearer, | Stilesville, Hendricks County, Indiana. |

* Excused.

Haymard

The following brethren handed in their certificates of appointment as delegates to this Synod.

*Lay Delegates.*

Bro. Jacob C. Plank, from Rev. S. McReynold's charge.
Bro. Hiram Rhoads, from Rev. A. H. Myers' charge.
Bro. Jacob Sayler, from F. Templin's charge.
Bro. J. M. Shaver, from H. Wells' charge.
Bro. Reuben Crapo, from G. Wolf's charge.

The President now read the following annual report:

REPORT.

Beloved Brethren in the Lord:—In accordance with a resolution passed at the second Convention of this body, we are permitted by *Divine Providence*, to assemble at the time and place fixed upon for holding the third meeting of the Olive Branch Synod of Indiana.

It is made my constitutional duty to present to you a written report of all my *official* acts, as also such other information, as may be interesting to Synod—promotive of God's Glory—and tending to build up the Redeemer's cause and Kingdom amongst us.

First, permit me to remind you that, in view of the kind providential care of Almighty God over us, the Olive Branch Synod is called upon to render unto *Him* the sacrifice of grateful praise, for the exercise of his abundant goodness and mercy towards us during the past year; which has wrought many and wonderful changes in various parts of our world.

While God in his *providence*, and wisdom, for purposes too deep and mysterious for us to fathom, has called several of our *clerical* brethren of sister Synod's from the scene of their labor, in His *moral vineyard*, to render an account of their stewardship and receive the reward due to their works, our number has not been diminished either by removal or death; but on the contrary, the Macedonian cry has been heard, and the Lord has inclined others to come over and help us, so that several destitute places are now supplied with stated *ministerial* services.

On account of the failure of a number of the members of Synod, to put into my hands the necessary information on several points specified in our *constitution,* this report will be found somewhat defective. But from information received there have been several congregations organized within our bounds, since our last meeting, in the charges of the different brethren belonging to this body, the definite number of which I am unable to specify.

*Edifices for religious uses* have sprang up in various parts of our bounds, and are in various stages of progress.

Some have been *consecrated*, and solemnly set apart for the worship of the Triune God; others doubtless will be, before the season closes.

There are others that have been recently founded:—The corner stones of three were laid, in the Indianapolis charge, a few weeks since. However, the number that have been consecrated, as also that are in process of erection, I am unable to state; but hope that number is large.

Some ministerial changes have taken place during the past Synodical year. Rev. G. A. Exline has removed from Albion, Noble co., to Benton, Elkhart co., where he is now located. Rev. J. Geiger has removed from Liberty, Union co., to East Germantown, Wayne co., but as these places are situated at a short distance from each other, it is reasonable to suppose that he cultivates the same field. Rev. A. Shearer

is under commission from the American Tract Society; and in the mean time ministers statedly at several points in Morgan co., and adjacent parts, where he has organized one or two congregations, and estab ished preaching places. Farther than the above, I believe the members of this body remain as at our last meeting.

Since my last report to you, several of our brethren in the ministry have been directed in the providence of God to some of the many destitute parts of this State, and are now located within our bounds.

Rev. J. Seidle, formerly of Woodview, Ohio, *supplies* the place formerly occupied by Rev. G. A. Exline. Rev. J. J. Hoffman, and Rev. D. H. Bittle, of Northern Ohio, have taken charge of congregations in the bounds of the Olive Branch Synod:—the former in Decalb co., the latter in Madison, on the Ohio river. Rev. G. W. Saitzel of the Allegany Synod, I am informed, has recently located in South Bend, St. Joseph co.

I hope these Brethren will find it convenient and desirable to unite with us at our present meeting.

Although we may be unable to report any special outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on any of the Churches in connection with us, yet we have reason to believe that our congregations are generally in a prosperous condition—that they have increased both in membership and piety—and that the standard of religion is being elevated; for which we have reason to thank God, and take courage. For further particulars on this subject I would refer you to the report of the committe on the state of Religion, appointed at our last Convention; which will doubtless be laid before you in due time.

Shortly after the adjournment of Synod last fall, a letter was placed in my hands by Br. Templin, from Rev. G. Yeager, Jeffersontown, Jefferson County, Ky., asking to be received into connection with this body.

This Br. appears to be surrounded with circumstances peculiar and anomolous. He had intended to have been present at our meeting in Columbia, but from circumstances over which he had no control, was prevented. In which event he directed a letter as his representative; which did not reach its destination in time to be acted upon by this body. By the advice of the Secretary, and one or two other members of Synod, I addressed a letter to said Br., stating my willingness to take any constitutional and expedient steps which might be beneficial and satisfactory. At the same time proposing, if the case was a pressing one, to call an *extra* session of Synod, at the earliest practicable period, for the investigation of the circumstances and facts in the case. To this communication no answer has been received. This subject, together with the letter above mentioned, is referred to you for careful consideration and prudent action.

Some time in November last, there was placed in my hands a certificate of honorable dismission, granted by the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, to Br. G. Wolf, which is now placed in the hands of Synod.

In the month of July, an order was granted on the *Treasurer*, at the request of the Secretary, for the sum of thirty-three dollars and sixty-nine cents, to pay the printing of the minutes of last session.

The cause of Missions, deserves the most prayerful attention of this body. We have reason to be thankful to God, and the committee of the Home Missionary Society, for the aid extended to ministers within our bounds during the past year, and still solicit aid of that useful organization in supplying our destitute places.

The subject of Beneficiary Education, and the various Benevolent enterprizes of the day, will be brought before you in due time. And trusting in your competency, I shall not prescribe the course which should be pursued relative to them.

The system of Conference meetings adopted, appears to be, in many cases, impracticable.

The distance at which many of our ministers are located from each other, renders a punctual attendance extremely difficult, and uncertain. The time thus spent in assisting a brother, in many cases, is calculated to cause irreparable injury at home.

In view of these facts, would it not be advisable for Synod to devise some means by which the services of a competent and efficient minister can be procured, whose duty it shall be to attend such meetings throughout the bounds of Synod, to gather the destitute, organize congregations, catechise the young, and perform such other duties as may be required of him; who shall be mainly supported by the contributions of the people among whom he labors. This subject I submit to you for consideration.

In view of these important facts, let us redouble our dilligence in promoting the interests of our beloved Zion, and cultivate that portion of the Lord's vineyard assigned to us.

We should often come with humble boldness to a Throne of Grace, and entreat the Great Head of the Church, to qualify, and send forth more laborers into his field, which is already white for the harvest.

Finally, Brethren, the time has arrived, when, according to our constitution, my relation as President of this organization must cease. Permit me, then, to tender to those whose unsolicited suffrage placed me in this responsible situation, my most hearty thanks for the confidence reposed in me.

May the blessing of the Lord rest upon our deliberations—may our work be accomplished in harmony—and may the Grace of God who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, evermore abound in our hearts, to his praise and glory, is the prayer of

Your Brother in Christ.
S. McREYNOLDS.

On motion,

The report was accepted, and placed in the hands of a committee, composed of Rev. O. Brown, Rev. J. Geiger, and H. Rhoads, who were instructed to report at the earliest hour possible.

The election of President and Secretary for the ensuing year was now entered into, and resulted as follows:

Rev. A. H. Myers, *President.*
Rev. O. Brown, *Secretary.*
Rev. H. Wells, *Treasurer.*

On motion,

Rev. J. P. Hay, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, was received as an advisory member of this body, and invited to a seat among us.

On motion,

A committee to report on unfinished business in the minutes of last Session was appointed. And said committee to be composed of Rev. F. Templin, Rev. D. H. Bittle, and Bro. J. Sayler.

On motion,

The Rev. D. H. Bittle was introduced and received as a delegate from the Synod of Miami, and invited to a seat among us.

Various papers and documents requiring the action of Synod, were now called for by the President, and distributed to the following committees:

*Third Committee*—Rev. J. Geiger, Bro. J. C. Plank, Bro. H. Rhoads.

*Fourth Committee*—Rev. H. Wells, Rev. S. McReynolds.

*Fifth Committee*—Rev. F. Templin, Rev. D. H. Bittle, Bro. J. C. Plank.

*Sixth Committee*—Rev. D. H. Bittle, Rev. A. Shearer, Bro. J. Sayler.

*Seventh Committee*—Rev. O. Brown, Rev. J. Geiger, Rev. H. Wells.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 2½ o'clock this afternoon.

Closed with prayer by the President.

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## SECOND SITTING.

Synod met persuant to adjournment, and was opened with singing, and prayer by the Secretary.

Minutes of the first sitting were read and approved.

The committee on the President's report now presented the following; which was accepted and adopted.

### REPORT.

Your committee, to whom was referred the President's report, respectfully report the following:—

That it is a document involving much of important interest, and recommend it to the favor of Synod: And from it present the following items for consideration and action.

1. Your committee, with grateful hearts, rejoice that Almighty God has not removed any of our number by the hand of death.

2. The report communicates information of the organization of some congregations, and erection of Church buildings, in which we rejoice—and recommend the spirit and zeal of the Indianapolis charge, to all churches within our bounds.

3. We rejoice to learn that several Brethren in the ministry have come within our bounds, for the purpose of supplying the destitution within our limits, and

hope and pray, they may be abundantly successful in extending the Redeemer's kingdom, and winning souls to Him.

4. We are happy to learn that the congregations within our bounds, are still increasing in numbers and piety, and pray that the Lord may still more abundantly prosper our beloved Zion in the west.

5. Item, refers to the case of Bro. Yeager. And your committee approve of the course pursued by the President—and as this subject will be presented hereafter, we pass it by for the present.

6. The important causes of Missions and Beneficiary Education, will come before this body in their proper time ; and therefore your committee pass over this portion of the report.

7. The subject in reference to the retention or omission of our present system of Conferences, your committee would refer to Synod. And also the subject of the appointment of an Evangelist.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. BROWN,
J. GEIGER,
H. RHOADS.

The *Second Committee*, (on unfinished business,) reported the following, which, with the replies therein made, was adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee to whom was referred the minutes of last session, respectfully submit the following :

1st. Is a petition from St. Peter's Church, Camden Ind., under the pastoral care of Rev. S. McReynolds, requesting Synod to appoint a committee to install said brother, as Pastor of said Church. The following Brethren were appointed said committee: Rev. A. H. Myers, Rev. O. Brown, and Rev. F. Timplin.

Has this duty been discharged?

[ It was answered in the affirmative.]

2nd. That the chair appoint brethren to speak on the following subjects at our next annual Convention ; to-wit : Ordination, Missions and Education.

The chair appointed the following brethren :—Rev. S. Sayford, to preach on Ordination—Rev. H. Wells, on Missions—and Rev. G. A. Exline, on Education.

[ This item was adopted.]

3d. The following brethren were appointed delegates to the *General*, and Sister Synods of our Church.

TO THE GENERAL SYNOD.

*Clerical.*—Rev. A. H. Myers,
*Lay. Del.*—Bro. Henry Ohr,
*Alternates.*—Rev. H. Wells, & Bro. G. D. Staats.

TO SISTER SYNODS.

To Wittenberg Synod.—Rev. S. Sayford,
To Miami Synod.—Rev. J. Geiger,
To Synod of Illinois.—Rev. S. McReynolds,
To Indianapolis German Synod.—Rev. G. Wolf,
To English Synod of Ohio.—Rev. G. A. Exline.

Have these brethren attended to their respective duties?

[The Delegate to the General Synod presented the following report.]

## REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL SYNOD.

Your Delegate to the General Synod would respectfully report the following :—

That he attended the meeting of said body held in Charleston, South Carolina, April 27th, A. D. 1850. His reception as a Delegate from an Infant Western Synod was most cordial; as was the reception of the Olive Branch Synod, into the fellowship of the General Synod, upon application—as the following resolution (the first action of that body,) will clearly evidence.

*Resolved*, That the Olive Branch Synod, having complied with the constitutional conditions, be admitted as an integral part of this Convention, and its Delegates invited to take seats as members.

The Convention was well attended, when we consider the distance which most of the Delegates had to travel; and a vast amount of business relating to the general welfare of the Church, transacted in the utmost good feeling and *harmony*.

In view of the present character and position—and promising future prospects of this body, of uniting all parts of our Church in this country in one unbroken communion; and the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom among the destitute; you will permit your delegate to congratulate you upon your accession to this sisterhood of Synods.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. H. MYERS, Del.

## REPORT OF DELEGATE TO THE SYNOD OF MIAMI.

Your Delegate to Miami Synod would respectfully report as follows :—

That he attended the meeting of that body, held in Lancaster, Ohio, April 5th—9th, A. D. 1850. Was cordially received and treated with christian friendship.

This body entertains the most friendly feelings towards us, and have elected a Delegate to attend our meeting in return.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That we continue to cherish feelings of christian friendship with said body, and keep up our fraternal relations to it in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. GEIGER. Del.

## REPORT OF DELEGATE TO THE SYNOD OF ILLINOIS.

Your Delegate appointed to the last Convention of the Illinois Synod, would report as follows :—

That on account of ill health, and other circumstances over which he had no control, he was unable to attend in person; but addressed a letter to that body, expressive of the kind regard of the Olive Branch Synod towards them.

S. McREYNOLDS.]

4th. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to procure printed certificates of licensure and ordination for the use of this body. Has this been complied with?

[The Secretary answered in the negative, with satisfactory reasons.]

5th. *Resolved*, That our Delegates to the General Synod be instructed to procure, if possible, the establishment of a depository for the publications of our Church within our bounds.

Has this been done?

[It was answered that an effort was made, but failed of success.]

6th. The following brethren were appointed a committee to report on the "State of Religion within our bounds," at our next annual Convention :—

The Secretary, the President, Rev. S. Sayford, and Rev. G. A. Exline, said committee.

Is the committee prepared to discharge this duty?

[See Report, subsequently presented.]

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. TEMPLIN,
D. H. BITTLE,
J. SAYLER.

On motion,

The chair appointed the *Eighth committee*, Rev. S. McReynolds, Bro. J. C. Plank, Bro. H. Rhoads, to report on documents committed to their hands.

A letter from Bro. Well's congregation, in Hendricks co., was received and read before Synod, expressive of their affection to him, and appreciation of his labors.

Which intelligence was gratifying to Synod.

On motion,

It was ordered, that Synod engage one half hour in devotional exercises, every morning, before proceeding to business.

On motion,

It was ordered that Synod now adjourn until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, A. M., in order to make room for a session of the Ministerium.

Closed with prayer by Rev. F. Templin.

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## THIRD SITTING.

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 5th, 1850.

Pursuant to adjournment, Synod met, and after devotional exercises was opened for business.

Prayer by Rev. A. Shearer.

Minutes of the second sitting were read and adopted.

The eighth committee reported the following, which was adopted.

### REPORT.

Your committee to whom was referred paper No. 8, would report as follows :

The document placed in their hands is a letter from Mt. Zion Church, Morgan County, under charge of Bro. A. Shearer, recommending said Bro. to the favorable

regard of Synod, and praying for a renewal of his license. They also state that an awakening has taken place, and several souls have been converted.

These brethren desire the continuance of Bro. Shearer, or some other warm-hearted Lutheran.

Your committee rejoice to know that our young brother has been favorably accepted, and received some seals to his ministry, and offer the following: That these brethern have our sympathies in their infancy, and that the ministerium take favorable notice of their request at the proper time.

All of which is submitted.

S. McREYNOLDS.
H. RHOADS.
J. C. PLANK.

The chair appointed the *ninth committee*, Rev. G. Wolf, Rev. H. Wells, and Bro. J. M. Shaver.

To whom were referred certain documents to be reported on.

The *Third Committee* reported the following:

REPORT.

Your Committee on papers No. 3, would report as follows:

Item 1st—is a letter from Rev. J. Shearer, of the Synod of Illinois, acknowledging the receipt of a letter from our Delegate to that Synod, and also expressing the friendly feeling of that body toward us. Br. Shearer was elected Delegate from that Synod, to the Olive Branch Synod, but on account of the afflictions of his family will not be present with us.]

Your Committee would recommend that a Delegate be appointed to that Synod, and that we continue to keep up a friendly correspondence with that body.

2nd. Is a letter from Rev. Geo. Yeager—your committee would refer this subject to the consideration of Synod.

[In connections with this 2nd item Synod adopted the following resolution:]

WHEREAS, said Brother was addressed by the President, and has failed to answer: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this subject be dropped.

3d. Is a letter from Bro. Sayford, in which he gives his reasons for not meeting with us at this time. These reasons we think are sufficient.

Therefore, *Resolved*, that Bro. Sayford be excused.

Respectfully Submitted.

J. GEIGER.
H. RHOADS.
J. C. PLANK.

The Sixth Committee presented the following report, which was adopted.

REPORT.

Your Committee would beg leave to report as follows:

The 15th Convention of the General Synod was held in Charleston, S. C., April 27th, 1850. We find much in the minutes of a gratifying nature. From the reports of the committees on "Christain Union," and "Ecclesiastical Correspondence," we learn that the most friendly feelings at present subsist between Ecclesiastical bodies of the Presbyterian, the Cumberland Presbyterian, Arthodox Congre-

gational, and German Reformed Churches, and our own General Synod : Delegates are interchanged and recognized with a truly christian spirit.

From the report of the state of the church, we learn that there are 16 Synods in connection with the General Synod, 11 of which are reported upon. In connection with these latter we find 297 Ministers, 55,776 Communicant members, and $13,777 contributed to benevolent purposes,

Among the resolutions of Synod, we find the following on page 36.

*Resolved*, That our Secretary request the Secretaries of District Synods, to prepare a full account of the statistics, and the state of religion within their respective bounds, before the next meeting of the General Synod.

The reports of the Foreign and Home Missionary Societies are cheering. We have 3 Missionaries in the Foreign field, and preparations are making to send 3 additional laborers.

We have 22 Missionaries in the Home field, in part, or in whole supported by the societies. The call in this department is for *funds*, and not for men.

The report of the Education Society, says, there are 42 young men supported by this Society. The cry here is also more funds.

In view of these things, your committee would recommend a *system* of benevolence in every church. If *dollars* cannot be collected, let *dimes* be solicited, for it requires only *ten to make a dollar.*

The General Synod will meet again in Winchester, Va., on the second Saturday of May, 1853.

Respectfully Submitted.
D. H. BITTLE.
JACOB SAYLER.

On motion,

It was ordered to appoint a committee to prepare a table of "Parochial Reports," which was composed of the following members :

*Tenth Committee*—Rev. A. Shearer, Rev. G. Wolf, and Br. J. M. Shaver.

On motion,

It was ordered to appoint a committee to prepare a *Pastoral Letter*, to be addressed to our churches. And is composed of the following brethren :

*Eleventh Committee*—Rev. President, Rev. H. Wells, and Rev. J. Geiger.

On motion,

Ordered, to appoint a committee to draft a constitution for a Missionary Society in connection with this Synod. And to be comprised of the following members :

*Twelfth Committee*—Rev. President, Rev. H. Wells, and Rev. S. McReynolds.

It was moved,

That we now adjourn, indefinitely, to meet again at the option of the President.

And was so adopted.

Closed with prayer, by Rev. J. Geiger.

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## FOURTH SITTING.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, OCT. 7th, 1850.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and after the usual devotional exercises, was opened for business, with prayer by the President.

Minutes of last sitting read and approved.

The Committee on the "*state of Religion*," within our bounds, presented their report, which was read, and on motion, was adopted.

### REPORT.

Report of the committee on the State of Religion, in the bounds of the Olive Branch Synod.

Your committee to whom the responsible and arduous work of preparing a report on the State of Religion in our bounds, was confided, respectfully submit the following: The Olive Branch Synod of Indiana, in recording the dealings of the Great Head of the Church, with His people, during the past Synodical year, feel constrained to express a sense of the goodness and mercy of God, experienced in our exemption from the visitation of Pestilence, and in the degree of health and prosperity enjoyed. We rejoice to be permitted to report that the churches are enjoying peace and harmony; with an *encouraging degree of external prosperity*, and *increasing strength;* the spirit of love *reigning* in the heart and mind, preventing fraternal strife, and unholy faction; and binding heart to heart and hearts to the church in holy fellowship and purified communion; directing in harmony their efforts for the evangelization of the world.

The congregations in attendance upon the means of grace, have been unusually large, and nearly all the Churches have enjoyed a few tokens of the Divine favor in the conversion of souls; while the work of the Great Master-Builder has prospered in the developement of christian character, and the consolidation of the churches. The Pastors have been incessantly engaged in untiring efforts for the conversion of souls, and the edification of the churches; and it should be mentioned as the occasion of thanksgiving, and encouragement to constancy and persevering effort; that the preaching of the Gospel has not been without the evidences of the presence of the Spirit of God.

While nearly all the Churches have received some manifestations of the Divine power, in the early dew, and in the former and latter rain, a few of them have enjoyed special seasons of refreshing from the Lord. The Churches of Indianapolis, Fall-Creek, (of Indianapolis charge,) Ladoga, Camden, Carthage, and Hickory-Grove, have enjoyed an unusual degree of religious interest.

As near as we can learn 9 congregations have been organized within our bounds, and 5 church edifices are in process of erection.

While we make the above record with emotions of devout gratitude to God for

as much of his favor as he has vouchsafed to us, yet with deep humiliation we deplore our personal unworthiness and unfaithfulness, as the reason why we are not permitted to report a general and powerful work of Grace in all our churches. We need a new Baptism from on High, and a higher standard of piety, as the *first fruits*, and the *means* of a glorious work of grace; for surely "the Lord's hand is not "shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear, but our "iniquities have separated between us and our God, and our sins have hid his face "from us; that he will not hear."

The committee are gratified to report that increasing attention is being bestowed upon the moral and Religious culture of the rising generation, through the instrumentality of the Sabbath School, and Bible classes. These nurseries of piety, should be sustained in all our churches; as they are justly regarded by intelligent Pastors, and Parents as powerful and affective *helps*, in the protection and preservation of the highest interests of our children and youth.

The reform movements of the age; contemplating human welfare in some of its vital parts; do not appear to be making such rapid progress as in former years; and evidently do not receive from the Church that attention which their high and benevolent mission demands.

The great Temperance Reform, which in its signal triumphs, has brought joy to many hearts, and peace and prosperity to many almost desolate hearthstones, is not progressing in proportion to its importance, and the wants of the age. We have to call the special attention of Ministers and Churches to this alarming evil, the suppression of which is contemplated by this great cause.

We are pained to learn that the desecration of the Sabbath, especially in our commercial towns, is increasing to an alarming extent. The fourth commandment is the key-stone of the moral arch, the success of the Gospel; and all the other means of Grace are dependent *upon*, and proportionate *to* the *regard* we have *for*, and the estimate we *put upon* the Sabbath; and we therefore earnestly exhort all our churches, to a strict observance of the Sabbath, among themselves, and to adopt such measures as may seem most desirable to promote a better observance of the Holy Sabbath among all classes.

On the whole, we think the *history* of the past year is encouraging, and hope-inspiring; and when we look upon the inviting fields of labor spread out before us, which we are invited by the Savior still to cultivate; we rejoice that we are permitted to return from this Synodical Convention, with the evidence of the Savior's presence and blessing in our former labors, and with the confident expectation of his gracious presence, and assistance, in our future labors, and journey through life.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. H. MYERS,

S. McREYNOLDS.

*Seventh Committee*—To whom were referred certain papers and documents, respectfully report the following, which was adopted.

REPORT.

Your Committee on papers No. 7, respectfully report as follows:

The first item, is a copy of the constitution, of the first Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Decatur township, Marion County, Indiana, accompanied with an application to be received into connection with this body. Your committee have examined said constitution, and finding nothing therein at variance with the Scriptures, or conflicting with the constitutional principles of this body.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the request of this congregation be complied with.

Second item—is a preamble and resolutions from the Church councils of the Indianapolis charge, assembled in Convention; relative to the lamentable destitution within the bounds of this Synod, and the appointment of an Evangelist to supply this destitution. Which preamble and resolutions we recommend to the consideration of Synod.

Respectfully submitted.

O. BROWN.
J. GEIGER.
H. WELLS.

On motion,

It was ordered that the Rev. D. H. Bittle and Rev. F. Templin, be added to the committee appointed to prepare a "Constitution for a Missionary Society" in connection with this body.

The *Fourth Committtee* now presented the following report, which was adopted.

REPORT.

Your Committee to whom were referred the minutes of Synods, report the following.

No. 1. The minutes of the 4th Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, of Illinois, held in Mt. Carmel, Wabash County, Ill., August 23d—27th, 1849. This Synod consists of 10 ordained ministers, 20 congregations, and 955 communicants. Its officers are, Rev. A A. Trimper, Pres., Rev. E. Miller, Sec., and Rev. D. Shearer, Treas. Success to this faithful, self-denying, persevering little band of warm-hearted christian brethren. The Lord abundantly bless them.

No. 2 Minutes of the 7th session of the Synod of Miami, convened at Lancaster, Ohio, on the 5th of April, 1850. This Synod embraces 18 ordained ministers, and 3 Licentiates—total 20 ministers, 64 congregations, 2772 communicants. The officers are Rev. W. H. Harrison, Pres., Rev. D. H. Bittle, Sec., and Mr. A. Gebhart, Treas. May the Great Head of the church continue to own and bless the labors of this prosperous body of Christians.

No. 3. Minutes of the 3d meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the South West, convened in Ebenezer Church, Franklin County, Tennessee, on the 2d Thursday in Oct., 1849. This Synod contains 6 ordained ministers, and 4 licentiates, 23 congregations, and 960 communicants. May the Lord crown the labors of these faithful brethren with great and increasing success, in spreading scriptural holiness through their large and difficult field.

No. 4. The minutes of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran church, held in the city of Pittsburgh, May 23d—29th, 1850, and published in an extra No. of the "Missionary," dated July 1850. This Synod has 16 ordained ministers, and 6 Licentiates, 68 churches, and 4883 communicants. God grant unto this efficient and systematic Synod even greater success in their labors of love than that which has heretofore crowned them. Officers, Rev. Gottlieb Bassler, Pres., Rev. W. S. Emery, Sec., Rev. W. A. Passavant, Miss. Pres., and Mr. George Glubley, Treas.

No. 5. An abstract of the proceedings of the English Lutheran Synod of Ohio, published in the "Lutheran Observer," of June 21st, 1850, from which we report

the following: This Synod embraces 21 ordained and 9 licensed Bishops, 74 congregations, and 2669 communicants. These liberal-hearted, deligent brethren are doing well, being actively engaged in all the benevolent enterprizes of the day. May the Lord grant unto them more abundant success.

They met in Synodical Convention in Ashland, Ohio, May 16th, 1850.

The officers are Rev. C. C. Guenther President, Rev. W. C. Hauer Secretary, Rev. W. Thompson Treasurer.

Your committee respectfully suggest to Synod, the election of delegates to all these Synods.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. WELLS,
S. McREYNOLDS.

*Fifth committee*, to whom were committed various documents, reported the following:—which was adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee to whom were given the minutes of various Synods, beg leave to report as follows:—

No. 1. Proceedings of the 31st annual Convention of the Ev. Luth. Synod of Md. This body met at Hagerstown Md., Oct., 18th, 1849. The officers are,—Pres. Rev. S. Sentman—Sec. Rev. J. A. Seiss,—Treas. Rev. D. F. Bittle. This Synod consists of 29 ordained ministers and 4 Licentiates. The Parochial report shows, 65 cong.—9787, comm., and contributions to various objects $9075,82.

No. 2. Minutes of the 26th meeting of the Evan. Luth. Synod and ministerium South Carolina and adjacent States. Held at St. Andrews church, S. C., Nov. 10th, 1849. This body consists of 31 ministers and 15 Licentiates. The Parochial report shows 47 cong,—3661 comm. From their minutes we learn that these brethren are zealous in the missionary cause and other benevolent operations. The officers are Rev. W. Burley, Pres.—I. F. W. Leppard Sec.—E. B. Hort cor. Sec. Mr. J. Rauch Treas. of Synod,—H. Muller Treas of Seminary,—Dr. Lord Treas, of Widows Fund.

No. 3. Minutes of the 19th annual session of the Evan. Luth. Synod of Va., held in German Settlement, May 10th, 1849. The officers are Rev. J. P. Cline, Pres.—A. P. Ludden, Sec.—and P. Shickle, Treas. The Parochial Report shows 19 ministers, 42 cong., and 2466 members. This is an active and enterprising Synod.

No. 4. The proceedings of the Alleghany Synod convened at Johnstown Pa., Oct., 18th, 1849. The officers are Rev P. Sahm, Pres.—H. Bishop Sec.—Bosserman, Treas. The number of ministers is 21, cong. 73,—members 5473, contributions to various purposes $8737,33.

No. 5. Minutes of the 14th session of the Evan. Luth. Synod of Ind., held at Sliphers Church, Oct. 5th 1849. This Synod consists of 6 Pastors, 2 students, and 1 Deacon. The officers are Rev. E. Rudisill, Pres.--and S. Good Sec.

We find nothing of special interest to us except a friendly recognition of the Olive Branch Synod.

No. 6. Proceedings of the 4th annual session of the German Evan. Luth. Synod of Indianapolis, held in Indianapolis, Sept. 27th, 1849.

This Synod consists of 12 members. The officers are I. F. Isensee, Pres.—D. O. Hunger, Sec.—A. Brand Treas. The Parochial report gives cong. 19, comm. 1432.

We trust that the labors of our German brethren may be blessed. In their minutes we find a favorable recognition of our body.

Respectfully Submitted,

F. TEMPLIN,
D. H BITTLE,
J. C. PLANK.

On motion,

The Treasurer's report was handed in, and the following committee appointed by the chair, to audit the same.

Rev. J. Giger, Bro. J. M. Shaver and Bro. Reuben Crapo.

*Ninth committee* now presented the following report :

REPORT.

Committee No. 9, would report as follows:

The Document placed in our hands is a letter from Bro. G. A. Exline, in which he states his inability (on account of delicate health,) to attend Synod, hence he asks to be excused, assuring us that his heart is with us, and his prayers ascend in our behalf. He also states that he prepared a sermon but could not get it to Synod. Your committee pray Synod to excuse Bro. Exline He also sends his Parochial report, which appears as follows: Ch. 2, Sta. 2, In. Bap. 2, Ad. Bap. 7, Confirm. 19, Ad. by Let. 7, Com. 42, U. S. S. 2, Prayer meetings 2, Col. local purposes $50,00.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. WOLF,
H. WELLS,
J. M. SHAVER.

Which was accepted, and on motion,

*Resolved*, That so much of this report as refers to Bro. Exlines excuse for non-attendance at Synod, be referred to the Ministerium, and his Parochial report to the committee appointed to prepare a table of Parochial reports.

Synod now attended to the preparation of the Parochial Report, by the calling of the roll.

On motion,

The following resolutions were adopted.

*Resolved*, That we acknowledge those congregations reported, who have not sent in a copy of their constitution ; with the understanding that they comply at our next meeting. (See Art. 7, sec. 1, cons.)

*Resolved*, That we consider it the imperative duty of our Ministers, to bring to Synod a copy of the constitution of every congregation organized by him within the year for which his report is made.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

The committee on the Treasurer's report presented the following, which was adopted.

### REPORT.

Your committee on the Treasurer's report, would report the following: We have examined said report, and find the amount received by the Treasurer to be $40,22½ cash; of which he paid out for the printing of the minutes of Synod, $33,69. For Missionary services, $5,00; leaving a ballance in the Treasury of $1,53.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. GEIGER,
J. M. SHAVER,
REUBEN CRAPO.

On motion,

It was ordered that Synod now proceed to the election of Treasurer for the ensuing year. The chair appointed Bros. Shaver, and Rhoads, as tellers.

The vote cast resulted in the re-election of Bro. H. Wells, Treasurer.

On motion,

It was ordered that Synod now adjourn until 2 o'clock, P. M.

Closed with prayer, by Rev. H. Wells.

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## FIFTH SITTING.

MONDAY, 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by Rev. S. McReynolds.

Minutes read and approved.

On motion,

It was ordered to elect Delegates to Sister Synods, when the following nominations were confirmed.

### DELEGATES.

| | |
|---|---|
| To Synod of the South West, | Rev. G. Wolf, |
| " " of Illinois, | Rev. H. Wells, |
| " Wittenberg Synod, | Rev. J. Geiger, |
| " Miami Synod, | Rev. F. Templin, |
| " Eng. Synod of Ohio, | Rev President, |
| " Synod of Indianapolis, | Rev. S. Sayford, |
| " Pittsburgh Synod, | Rev. S. McReynolds. |

On motion,

It was ordered that we now proceed to the selection of the *time* and *place* of the next annual meeting of Synod. The *time* chosen, being the Friday morning before the 1st Sabbath in October, A. D., 1851.

The *place*, in balloting, the choice fell upon New Castle, the County seat of Henry co., Ind.

The committee appointed to draft a constitution for a Missionary Society now presented the following report, which was adopted by articles.

## REPORT.

Your committee appointed to draft a constitution for a Home missionary Society, in connection with this Synod, would respectfully submit the following for adoption:

## PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, there is a wide spread and deplorable destitution in the bounds of our Synod, and whereas our pastors, in view of their numerous appointments and arduous labors, in charges so extensive as to be only partially supplied, are not able to devote their time and attention to those who are entirely destitute; and whereas, we are fully convinced that the work of Evangelization belongs to the Church, in her associate capacity. Therefore Resolved, that we now organize ourselves into a Society for home Evangelization, and adopt for our Government the following constitution.

## CONSTITUTION.

ART. I. The name of this organization shall be "The Society for Home Evangelization," in the bounds of the Olive Branch Synod.

ART. II. The object of this society shall be to supply, and organize the destitute, by keeping an Evangelist, or Evangelists constantly in the field, and thus prepare the way for a settled ministry, and to excite our churches to christian liberality.

ART. III. The officers of the Society shall be a President, three Vice Presidents, a recording and corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall constitute the Executive committee.

ART. IV. Treasurer shall pay out no money except by an order of the executive committee, signed by the President.

ART. V. The Executive committee, during the recess of the annual meeting, shall have power to commission Evangelists, and determine the amount of salary they shall receive, direct the operations of all Evangelists in the employment of the Society, and the President shall call special meetings as often as the interests of the Society may demand, when solicited by ten members of the Society.

ART. VI. Every person who pays one dollar annually, to the Treasurer, shall be a member; and any person paying five dollars at any time shall be a Patron, and any person paying ten dollars at any one time shall be a life member.

ART. VII. The duties of the Evangelist shall be as follows: 1st, to visit and organize the destitute, with a view to the organization of a charge for a settled Pastor. 2nd, to give such newly organized churches special instructions in relation to the duty of *supporting* a Pastor among them. 3d, to organize, at every station an

auxilliary Society to this Parent Society, upon the basis of a constitution to be prepared by the executive committee. 4th, to visit the Churches of the Synod, and present the claims of the Society.

ART. VIII. The Stated meetings of this society shall be held at the time and place of the meeting of the Olive Branch Synod.

ART. IX. The Executive committee shall adopt such By-Laws as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Society.

ART. X. This constitution shall not be altered or amended, except by two-thirds of the members present at a stated meeting, six months notice having previously been given.

ART. XI. The Executive committe shall supply all vacancies in their numbers until next regular meeting.

A. H. MYERS,
S. McREYNOLDS,
H. WELLS,
D. H. BITTLE,
F. TEMPLIN.

On motion,

Ordered, that Synod now enter into an election of officers for the missionary Society, and the selection resulted as follows:

## OFFICERS OF MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

| | |
|---|---|
| President, | Rev. A. H. Myers, |
| Vice President, | Rev. H. Wells, |
| " " | Bro. J. M. Shaver, |
| " " | Bro. H. Rhoads, |
| Secretary, | Bro. H. Ohr, |
| Treasurer, | Bro. G. D. Staats. |

On motion,

Ordered, that Synod now receive members to the constitution of the Missionary Society, and that the President be appointed to convey the funds to the Treasurer.

[Vide Appendix, A.]

On motion,

Ordered, that Synod now enter upon the election of an Evangelist, and ordered farther, that before proceeding to vote, Synod engage in prayer, to be led by the President, for Divine guidance and direction in the choice.

After which Rev. H. Wells was nominated, and elected by a rising vote, *unanimously.*

On motion,

Ordered, that the Evangelist be permitted to devote one fourth of his time to a stated charge.

On motion,

Ordered, that the Evangelist recieve the sum of $350,00 for his services, inclusive of what he receives from his stated charge.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Closed with prayer by the Rev. D. H. Bittle.

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## SIXTH SITTING.

TUESDAY MORNING, Oct., 8th, A. D., 1850.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and after the usual devotional exercises, was opened for business.

Prayer by Rev. A. Shearer.

Minutes of last sitting read and approved.

The committee appointed to prepare a "Pastoral address" to our churches, presented the following, which was adopted.

## REPORT.

Your committee to whom the important and responsible work of preparing a "*Pastoral Address*" to the members of our communion in this state was entrusted, would respectfully report the following:

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

We address you, not in regard to Orthodoxy, for we have learned of your love and soundness in the "Faith once delivered to the Saints," and for which the Great Reformer, whose distinctive name we bear, and who so nobly contended "against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places," and have rejoiced; and whilst we would, if possible, encourage and confirm you in your adherence to the Gospel of the son of God, we would endeavor more fully to enlist your sympathies, prayers, and co-operation in the great and blessed work of bringing others to embrace the same Heavenly "form of doctrine," that they may rejoice in the same divine consolations. As you believe in one Divine Mediator, who was made flesh and crucified for the sins of the world; and who is now exalted in Heaven, to give repentance and remission of sins to all who devoutly seek his grace; through whom you look for a future and enternal resting-place in the Heavens; we affectionately urge upon you fidelity unto death, assuring you

upon the "sure and steadfast" promises of the Gospel, that in that event you shall receive the Crown of life.

But, dear brethren, whilst we have confidence in your soundness in the Faith, we desire to call your attention to the importance of doctrinal instruction, for the benefit of the Young, and the responcibility and duty of the church respecting it. The *Sabbath* is God's *appointed time*, and the *Bible* and the *Gospel Ministry* the great means for religious instruction; and there are grave responsibilites and important duties resting upon Pastors, Parents, and Guardians, in the education of the children committed to their care—responsibilities which should not be trifled with, and duties which should be regarded as primary to all others in the work of evangelization, in as much the rising generation "are the Nation's glory, and the Church's hope." God has ordained that his people should be sanctified through the truth; and hence the great effort of Satan and of Anti-Christ, in every age of the world, by the introduction of every form of error, has been to deprive the people of the word of life. The withering-influences of false philosophy, and of a prevalent irreligious and poisonous literature, can be counteracted only by instilling into the youthful mind the doctrines of the bible.

*Man's life* and *character* are moulded by his religious faith. The true religious life is commenced and matured by the doctrines of the *Cross*. They are the mightiest truths ever uttered. They are the power of God unto salvation. The mightiest mind of earth is endowed with no faculty or energy which they will not develop and ennoble. The giant minds that *have* swayed and still sway the destinies of the great nations of the civilized world, but for christianity would have remained in obscurity. *Paul*, *Luther*, Calvin, Malancthon, Franke, Knox, Wesley, Whitfield, Chalmers, Washington, &c. The fruits of these doctrines may be seen in the history of the Waldenses—of the Reformers—of the German-Pietists, and our Patriarch Fathers of American Lutheranism; and in the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Europe and America, from the time of the Reformation to the present day.

Of this faith, the same substantially as held by all our churches, and preached from our pulpits, an admirable compendium may be found in the Augsburg Confession, and especially in the smaller catechism, than which a more comprehensive summary of Scripture doctrines can scarcely be found in any language, and which for ages has been recommended and used by the authority of the Synods of the church, as a guide and assistant in the study of the Sacred Scriptures. We earnestly enjoin upon the members of the churches the

duty of teaching the smaller catechisms to their children, in accordance with the practice of our fathers, that the rising generation may be thoroughly acquainted with the republican tendencies and biblical character of the church of the reformation; and may, in due time, be prepared to maintain them, as God shall afford them opportunity and strength.

We would also call the attention of churches *distinctly* to the nature and permanence of the pastoral office. A church without a pastor is not completely organized, and must remain in an unsettled condition, as an unsettled ministry cannot be expected to originate and carry out those comprehensive plans of religious enterprise, which are indispensably necessary to a high degree of Pastoral efficiency, and congregational prosperity. Nor, is it to be expected that the churches will so promptly assume the responsibility of supporting their ministers without assistance from the Home Missionary Society, while the obligations of the Pastoral relation are not understood. We would most affectionately invite your attention to this subject; you need a minister, not only to preach a sermon to you occasionally, but a Pastor to visit you in health and sickness, to bury your dead, to solemnize marriages in your families, and to instruct your children in the way of life. Meditate and converse with each other upon this subject, and if you discover that you need instruction in relation to the nature and obligations of the Pastoral relation, ask your Pastor or Evangelist of the Synod to preach upon this subject for your edification. In concluding upon this point, we would urge you to the exercise of due dilligence and liberality in the *support* of Pastors; that the Missionary Board may be enabled to provide for the wants of the destitute, who are utterly unable, without assistance, to secure the administration of the means of grace. You will not pursue this policy long, in the exercise of self-denial, until you will *satisfactorily* realize that "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." "That it is more blessed to give than to receive,"—for unto such individuals and churches, the "Lord of hosts will open the windows of Heaven, and pour them out a blessing, so copious and abundant that there shall not be room enough to *receive* it." See the prophecy of Malachi, iii chap. 7—18 vrs.

In view of the general and deplorable destitution in our bounds, and the clear conviction that it is the duty of the church, in her associated capacity, to carry forward the work of Evangelization, we have, in reliance upon the favor of the Great Head of the Church, organized a "Society for Home Evangelization in this State," and have also appointed an Evangelist, who will enter the field as soon as the necessary preliminary steps can be taken. The executive committee

will send you a copy of "the Constitution for Auxilliary Societies," under which we trust you will organize, and thus become connected with the Parent Society in its Heavenly missions.

As the Great Head of the church has made it our imperative duty "to do good as we have opportunity, unto all men, but especially unto the household of faith," what a mighty and heavenly work is here thrown upon our hands. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest. We accordingly make our appeal to you, and urge you with all the earnestness of christian benevolence, and all the authority of the high command of our Redeemer, to fidelity in this great work. Ambassadors of the Saviour—Sentinels on Zion's Walls—be faithful in all your house, as Moses was in his. "Hold not your peace, day nor night, ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." When you find a young David coming forward to volunteer to fight the battles of Jehovah, be careful to encourage his heart, and strengthen his hands for the good work. And when you meet a pious, meek, and timid Elisha, cast your mantle upon him; and when he manifests a disposition to enter the school of the Prophets, lend your hands to open his way.

Parents, as ye love God and long for the fulness of His kingdom, we beseech you to take your offspring and dedicate them to God in holy baptism, a duty which God requires at your hands, the faithful discharge of which will secure his richest blessing. And *consecrate* your sons to His service in the ministry. God gave his *only Son* for our redemption, and you may measurably resemble God by giving your children as messengers of salvation to the dying multitudes. With such offerings the Lord is well pleased, and they shall be accepted as treasures above the price of gems or gold.

Young men, your God hath need of you. His Providence points to His vineyard and says, why stand ye here all the day idle! There is demand for your services, and we conjure you to consider well whether it is not your duty to become preachers of the divine word.

Brethren of wealth and fortune, your help is also needed. As God often moves men to seek the ministry who are poor in the things of this world, it becomes the duty of the church to furnish them the requisite assistance during the course of that preparatory training so indispensable to make them efficient laborers in the word. Such assistance you can give;

and as ye hope for treasures where rust and thieves come not, we beseech you not to withhold it.

Finally, we entreat of all, young and old, ministers and members, rich and poor, to be earnest in prayer, and persevering in effort, for that glorious consummation, when the heathen shall be given to the Son of God for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

And now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted.

A. H. MYERS.
H. WELLS.
J. GEIGER.

2011337

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## VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

Rev. J. Geiger reported a vacant congregation in Randolph county. Those visiting or writing will inquire of F. Miller, or John Evans.

## MISSIONARY BUSINESS.

The following are represented as favorable points for missionary operations—Marion, the county seat of Grant co., a villiage 12 miles from Marion, on the road to Peru; Noblesville, in Hamilton county, and Cicero, 8 miles from Noblesville.

There are several large towns within our bounds, in which we have *interest*, and which should be occupied soon—Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Jeffersonville, and New Albany.

Rev. F. Templin is *willing* and *anxious* to divide his charge with any one who is willing to become his co-laborer in this promising field.

On motion,

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, 1st, That it is our duty as individuals, Pastors, and especially as a Synod, located in the midst of the Great field of Missionary operations, to cherish, and if possible to excite to a higher degree a missionary spirit among us.

*Resolved*, 2nd, That in our opinion a missionary Convention embracing pastors from the different sections of our wide-spread communion, held at some favorable point in the West, would have a tendency to cherish and excite such a spirit among us.

*Resolved*, 3d, That we call such a Convention to meet at Indianapolis on Friday before the first Sabbath in June, 1851, and that we hereby extend a cordial invitation to all Lutheran Ministers, and Lay members, to meet us in said Convention.

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## PROMISCUOUS BUSINESS.

On motion,

Ordered, That the President, or Secretary, tender to the citizens of Camden, the thanks of Synod for the hospitable entertainment received at their hands.

On motion,

Ordered, That the Secretary superintend the publication of the minutes, and that 500 copies be issued.

On motion,

Ordered, That 1000 copies of the "Pastoral address," and report on the "State of Religion," be issued in a separate form.

On motion,

That a synopsis be prepared, and published in the "Lutheran Observer," and also, at a suitable time, the "Pastoral address," and report on the "State of Religion."

On motion,

Rev. S. McReynolds was appointed assistant Secretary.

On motion,

Adjourned to meet at the time and place specified.

Closed by singing the 455th hymn, and prayer by the President.

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## RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

The following order of religious exercises obtained during the session of the Synodical Convention.

On Thursday evening, Oct. 3rd, a discourse was delivered by D. H. Bittle; Text, 1st Cor. i, 23.

On Friday evening, Pastoral sermon by the former President; Text, 1st Thess. ii, 8.

On Saturday, 1 o'clock P. M., Preparatory sermon by Rev. G. Wolf; Text, Num. xxi, 17.

Saturday evening, Sermon by D. H. Bittle; Text, Matt. xxii, 11, 12.

Sabbath morning, social Prayer, at 9½ o'clock. At 10 o'clock, sermon by the President; Text, Isa. liii, 4; after which the Lord's supper was administered to the members of Synod, and a large number of communicants, embracing members of other denominations.

The public services of the morning were attended by a very large concourse of people, whom we trust, were both interested and profited; and that the enjoyment of these services may result abundantly, in bringing forth the "peaceable fruits of righteousness," to the glory of God, in the ultimate salvation of many souls.

On Sabbath afternoon at 3 o'clock, Sermon by Rev. J. Geiger; Text, Rom. i, 16.

Sabbath evening, Sermon on missions, by Rev. H. Wells, Text, 1st Cor. x, 31, 32.

On Monday evening, sermon by the Sec'y; Text, Gen., vii, 1.

Tuesday evening, sermon by Rev. H. Wells; Text, Num. x, 29.

And also on Sabbath afternoon, at 3 o'clock, 5 miles from Camden, a sermon by Rev. F. Templin.

May our Divine Master, own, and greatly bless these efforts of his humble servants, to the promulgation of His Gospel, and extension of his Kingdom.

Thus hath closed the third annual Convention of the Olive Branch Synod. Its business transactions were performed in the utmost harmony and love, the spirit of peace and fellowship reigned in the heart; while all its members *felt* it was good and pleasant for "Brethren to dwell together in unity," and to meet once more on earth.

And now, may *His* covering wing of love, be spread over the Olive Branch, with all its interests and members, till permitted by His Grace and favor to meet again.

## SESSION OF THE MINISTERIUM.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4th, 3½ o'CLOCK, P. M.

### FIRST SITTING.

Pursuant to a resolution of Synod, the Ministerium met, and was opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. D. H. Bittle.

The Licenses, Journals, and Sermons of Bros. Geiger, and Shearer were now handed in.

And on motion,

Were referred to committees to be reported on. Committees appointed by the chair.

1*st Committee.*—Rev. S. McReynolds, Rev. O. Brown.

2*nd Committee.*—Rev. D. H. Bittle, Rev. F. Templin.

After some time spent in free conversation relative to various subjects connected with the interests of Zion;

On motion, The Ministerium adjourned.

Prayer by Rev. S. McReynolds.

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### SECOND SITTING.

MONDAY, OCT. 9th, 4½ o'CLOCK, P. M.

Ministerium met, and was opened with prayer by the Secretary.

Minutes of the last sitting of the Ministerium read and approved.

Committee No. 1 reported the following, which, on motion, was adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee to whom were referred the Journal and Sermon of Br. A. Shearer, have examined the same and would submit the following report:

The Journal of said Br. shows that he has been preaching in different places; but as only the texts and places are given, your committee can say nothing as regards the general system of the Brothers preaching.

The sermon as to style, composition, and subject-matter, is good, and evinces labor, study, and research. Its orthodoxy we deemed to be sound.

Your committee would recommend care in the systematic arrangement, and division of sermons, and offer the following:

*Resolved*, That the license of Br. Shearer be renewed for one year.

Respectfully submitted.

S. McREYNOLDS.
O. BROWN.

Committee No. 2 reported the following, which, on motion, was adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to report that they have examined the Journal and papers of Bro. Geiger. The Journal shows diligence and activity on the part of our brother, that is commendable. The texts and subjects not being named, nothing can be said of the nature of those labors from the instructions given.

The sermon evinces study and system as a general thing; the doctrines are sound and orthodox.

Your committee would recommend to the Br. that he write more and oftener, as he possesses the elements of a systematic sermonizer.

Your committee move the following:

*Resolved*, That Br. Geiger's license be continued for one year.

Respectfully Submitted.

D. H. BITTLE.
F. TEMPLIN.

On motion,

Ordered, That so soon as Br. Exline complies with the requirements of the constitution, the President be authorized to renew his license.

On motion,

Ministerium adjourned to meet at the option of Synod.

Prayer by Rev. G. Wolf.

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The foregoing is a true record of the proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of the "Olive Branch Synod, and Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, of the State of Indiana."

O. BROWN, *Secretary.*

LaFayette, *Indiana.*

# PAROCHIAL REPORT.

| PASTORS. | Churches. | Stations. | BAPTISMS. Infants. | Adults. | Total. | Confirmed. | Admitted by letter. | Communicants. | Removed by death. | Removed by letter. | Removed by expulsion. | Sunday Schools. | Scholars. | Prayer Meetings. | COLLECTIONS. For Synod. | For local and benevolent purposes. | POST OFFICE. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rev. A. H. Myers, | 4 | | 25 | 17 | 42 | 20 | 20 | 200 | 2 | 6 | | 5 | 275 | 5 | $11 00 | $1541 00 | Indianapolis. |
| Rev. O. Brown, | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 7 | | 49 | 1 | | | 1 | 50 | 1 | 4 80 | 15 00 | LaFayette. |
| Rev. H. Wells, | 7 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 11 | 39 | 230 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 50 | 3 | 8 00 | | Ladoga, Montgomery Co. |
| Rev. S. Sayford, | 4 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 42 | 1 | | | 2 | | 3 | 4 06 | | Middeletown, Henry Co. |
| Rev. S. McReynolds, | 3 | 4 | 7 | | 7 | 5 | 15 | 107 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 90 | 1 | 5 50 | 150 00 | Camden, Carroll Co. |
| Rev. F. Templin, | 5 | 5 | 24 | 1 | 25 | 2 | 24 | 162 | 5 | 9 | | 4 | 160 | 4 | 6 00 | 500 00 | Columbia, Whitley Co, |
| Rev. G. Wolf, | 1 | 6 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 16 | | | | 1 | | | 1 90 | | Sullivan, Sullivan Co. |
| Rev. J. Geiger, | | 4 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 11 | | 25 | | | | | | 1 | 2 00 | | Augusta, Marion Co. |
| Rev. G. A. Exline, | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 19 | 7 | 42 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | 50 00 | Benton, Elkhart Co. |
| Rev. A. Shearer, | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 22 | | | | | | 1 | 1 00 | | Stilesville, Hendricks Co. |
| Total, | 29 | 29 | 99 | 49 | 148 | 85 | 124 | 896 | 11 | 18 | 3 | 20 | 625 | 21 | 47 06 | 2256 00 | |

## APPENDIX No. A.

By order of Synod, a subscription was opened to receive members to the Constitution of the Missionary Society, when the following names, with the sums annexed, were handed in.

### MEMBERS OF THE O. B. MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

| Names of Members. | Amount. | Credits. |
|---|---|---|
| *Life Member*, | | |
| Rev. S. McReynolds, | $10 00 | paid $9. |
| Annual Members. | | |
| Rev. A. H. Myers, | $1 00 | paid. |
| " F. Templin, | 1 00 | |
| " H. Wells, | 1 00 | |
| " J. Geiger, | 1 00 | |
| " D. H. Bittle, | 1 00 | |
| " O. Brown, | 1 00 | |
| " A. Shearer, | 1 00 | |
| " G. Wolf, | 1 00 | |
| Mr. Hiram Rhoads, | 1 00 | |
| " J. M. Shaver, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " Jacob Sayler, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " J. C. Plank, | 1 00 | |
| " R. Crapo, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " J. H. Plank, | 1 00 | |
| " Henry Plank, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " S. B. Walter, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " Thomas Shirar, | 1 00 | |
| " G. D. Staats, | 1 00 | paid. |
| Mrs. Mariah McReynolds, | 1 00 | |
| " Caroline B. Wells, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " Sarah Myers, | 1 00 | paid. |
| " S. E. Bittle, | 1 00 | |
| " M. B. Geiger, | 1 00 | |
| " C. M. Sayler, | 1 00 | |
| " Julia Templin, | 1 00 | |
| Miss R. H. Williams, | 1 00 | |